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TITLE: The Ever-Changing Face of Tuberculosis in Miami

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ISSUE: To analyze changes in the epidemiology of tuberculosis (TB) in Miami-Dade County.

SETTING: Miami-Dade County, a metropolitan area with a high incidence and prevalence of HIV disease, with 21,642 AIDS cases reported up to December 1998 (45%, or 9,665, cases have been seen at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital). Miami-Dade County also has a TB prevalence rate (14.6 per 100,000) almost double the national average (8.0 per 100,000). Immigration from the Caribbean and Latin America is a particular phenomenon in our area.

PROJECT: Review of surveillance database for Miami-Dade County. Analysis of the epidemiological characteristics of patients coinfecting with tuberculosis and AIDS (TB/AIDS).

RESULTS: Between 1993 and 1998 there was a 38% decrease in TB reported cases in Miami Dade County. This reduction is explained by a tremendous decrease of 78% in the frequency of TB cases reported in TB/AIDS patients. In contrast, the frequency of cases of TB reported among patients without AIDS increased by a factor of 8%. Reductions in the frequency of TB cases were observed among males and blacks. No changes were observed among women. The frequency of cases of TB reported among US-born patients decreased by 47%. In contrast, the number of TB cases among foreign-born patients remain unchanged. Among foreign-born patients, Haitians have become the predominant group.

LESSONS LEARNED: Significant reductions in the number of cases of TB/AIDS are offset by a steady number of cases of TB among immigrants. Progress is observed among black males, but no change among women is seen. To further reduce the frequency of TB cases in Miami-Dade County, our efforts need to be redirected to include HIV-seronegative individuals, women, and imported cases.

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